

LIVERPOOL GOVERNANCE FORUM

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 10:00 on 24.1.23 at
The Beacon C of E School, Heyworth St, Liverpool L5 3QG

1.0 STANDARD ITEMS:

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Present: Michael Morris, David Blythe, Richard Lovegrove,
Dave Cadwallader, Dave Owens, Joyce Smith, Cliff Barton,
Danielle Azanuwha

Apologies: Andy Chadwick, Avril O'Brien, Ian Smith, Mary Donohue,
Hayley Igbokwe, Maureen McDaid

Guest speakers:

Danielle Sewoo and Neelam Chohan, Hate Crime Community Police Officers,
Merseyside Police.

DB highlighted that although Joe Hartley, Honorary President, was not able to attend LGF meetings held on Tuesdays due to other commitments he wished to be remembered to the committee members. PA confirmed that he receives each set of minutes and always acknowledges them.

1.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No changes to previous information were declared.

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting had already been agreed upon by email and posted on the LGF website.

1.4 Matters Arising

| Actions | |
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| 1. Members are to contact their individual schools regarding Twitter use | All |
| 2. Partnership for Learning to be contacted regarding availability | DC |

1. DB and other governors confirmed that their schools used Twitter but it was controlled by SLT. DC commented that teaching staff used Twitter at his school to celebrate and share pupils work.
DC asked if it was the role of the LGF to get involved with the political side of Twitter.
Members felt that it was appropriate for LGF to continue to promote LGF issues/events but to continue to monitor the service.
2. LGF Conference – Partnership for Learning venue has been booked for 13.5.23. Rohit Naik, Headteacher of Hope School and Carolyn Lawler, Liverpool Virtual Headteacher are to address the conference.

2.0 LGF Matters and Events

2.1 Finance

DB confirmed the LGF bank account currently stands at £3,765.62. He commented on the health of the bank balance noting that there are sufficient funds in the account to cover the expense of the forthcoming conference. It was also noted that LGF school's subscriptions are still to be collected.

A discussion took place regarding bank charges. DB is to share information with DO regarding contact details for the Bank of Scotland/Halifax regarding the setting up of a 'charitable' account that incurs no charges.

DB is to pass details of a possible new bank to DO. DO was asked to investigate the possibility of a new account before the next LGF meeting. It was noted that a motion may need to be passed and recorded at the next meeting to satisfy the bank's requirements for setting up a new account.

RL took this opportunity to inform the meeting that, due to his commitment to a school where he has recently undertaken to act as Chair of Governing Board, he will be unable to fulfil any responsibilities as LGF representative until further notice. RL stated that he still intends to attend LGF meetings.

2.2 Feedback from Events

Not Applicable

2.3 Future Events

LGF Conference 13.5.23 is to be an agenda item for the LGF meeting to be held on 21.3.23 March. DC is to include a notification about the LGF Conference in the next issue of Governors Termly News.

2.4 Website

DB reported that the website is up to date.

2.5 Twitter Account

This was dealt with under Matter Arising

2.6 Others

Not Applicable

3.0 Feedback from Representatives

3.1 Liverpool Schools Forum

CB reported that there had been 2 meetings in January 2023 concerned with funding for schools and stated that the figures for the coming year were almost ready to be published. He commented that it was interesting to see how the application of the formula resulted in a variation of funding for different schools.

It was noted that, in future, if a school becomes an academy there will be a charge to the school of approximately £5000 from the LA to cover their costs.

3.2 LLP Executive Board

There has been no meeting since the last LGF committee meeting. MM suggested that LLP should be approached regarding the level of training for staff on the subject of Hate Crime. It was noted that there is mandatory staff training on Safeguarding and it was felt that Hate Crime training should be included in this and should be covered as part of the Equality Act. DC stated he intended to ask SIL what teacher training is currently available on this subject. DC pointed out that there are other gaps in teacher training such as Governance that should also be addressed. Comment was made that even if certain subjects are not part of teacher training that should be included in school policies.

DC commented that Hate Crime is currently an area that Ofsted are examining as part of their inspections. DC was asked to approach LLP, informally at first, regarding this issue.

3.3 LLP All Learners

DO provided feedback from the LLP meeting held in January 2023 highlighting the following:

- The Reading Festival is to take place online from 26.1.23 to 31.1.23 for both primary and secondary pupils.
- A mini conference is to be held for year 5-8 pupils on 16.6.23.
- A Mental Health Week is to be held in the Epstein Theatre from 6.2.23 for year 5 pupils.
- Roar Training is to be available online in March 2023.
- A Transition 'padlet' (resource pack), is to be made available.
- Critical training is to be held. More information is available on the LLP website.
- Transformation of the Waterfront National Museum.
- An Inspiring Young Artists project is to be held which will take the form of school-based workshops for year 3-5 pupils.
- Resonate are to take the lead in celebrating Eurovision. There is to be a 100 strong boys' choir, a Ukrainian school's choir, a song writing festival for primary schools, a school ensemble brass performance and also a Ukrainian folk song theme.

- Members were directed to:
<https://www.liverpoollearningpartnership.com/what-we-do/mental-health/childrens-mental-health-week>.

3.4 LLP Learners Who Need More

Please note the information below was added after the LGF meeting held on 24.1.23.

DB attending Zoom meeting held on the 25 January 2023. The key focus of the meeting was as follows:

Childrens Mental Health Week which commences on 6th February. This is becoming an annual event. Schools are encouraged to take part in a range of both local and national activities to raise awareness around mental health and wellbeing.

Liverpool children's festival of reading 2023 which starts on Thursday 26th January through to Wednesday 8th February 2023. There has been strong sign-up from primary schools but, less strong from secondary schools and good sign-up from special schools.

Both the above topics have been mentioned in the weekly LLP Briefing note which is circulated to members.

Transition (transfer from primary to secondary schools) remains an ongoing agenda item. Whilst improvements have been made by standardising on one form, it is felt some key information e.g. mental health, safeguarding etc is omitted and discussions with schools continue on how this can be addressed.

A new project which has just started is the 'Test and Learn project', which is aimed at supporting parents / carers of vulnerable children including Looked After children. It is limited in its scope but hopefully will develop in the future into wider support.

3.5 Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP)

DA reported that she had attended a virtual meeting where consent and confidence regarding the sharing of information in the light of data protection was discussed. Those present felt confident in carrying out the necessary action

to protect pupils and felt the need to protect the child was paramount and although parent/carers would be informed of actions, their consent to the actions was not needed when sharing information with appropriate professionals.

DA is awaiting the date of the next LSCP meeting.

3.6 Other

Not Applicable

4.0 Other Items:

CB advised that the City Council issued notice to consult on amalgamation of Sudley Infant and Junior Schools and Gilmour Infant and Junior Schools. Concern was expressed regarding how the appointment of new headteachers may be approached.

DC informed the meeting that Steve Reddy is to step down as Director of Children's Services with short notice

The meeting concluded at 11:42

| Actions | |
|--|----|
| Bank information to be shared with DO | DB |
| Information regarding the Conference to be shared with DC for inclusion in Governors Termly News | DB |
| LLP to be approached regarding existing hate crime/incident training | DC |

The next LGF meetings will be held on 21.3.23, 16.5.23 and 11.6.23.

The meeting on the 21.3.23 will be at Moss pits Primary School when the Guest Speaker will be Jonathon Dixon, Resonate.

RL was asked to investigate the possibility of holding the May LGF meeting at Springwood Heath School.

APPENDIX A

Danielle Sewoo (DS) and Neelam Chohan (NC) of Merseyside Police were welcomed by MM. They addressed the meeting on the subject of Hate Crime and shared information on a Key Stage 2 preventative pilot scheme called "Hate makes me feel.....?". A copy of the worksheets that are used as part of the pilot scheme was shared with the meeting and will be shared electronically.

It was explained that the pilot scheme was designed to reduce hate crime and hate incidents across the Liverpool City Region. The workshop lasts for approx. 1 ½ hours in which pupils are encouraged to ask questions and share experiences.

DS explained that their purpose was to work with the community to manage community tensions before incidents got to crisis point and people resorted to calling 999. DS and NC have been working with DA for approximately 18 months and looking particularly at hate crime in the L4, L5 and L6 areas. It was highlighted that hate crime is not just racial discrimination but also includes discrimination in relation to any of the protected characteristics under the 2010 Equality Act, including gender, homophobia, disability etc.

DS said that one of the things that they had noticed was the age of children who were getting involved in hate incidents/crime was getting younger. This led to the decision to target year 5/6 pupils to make them aware of the consequences of their actions and the impact their behaviours have on the people they are targeting. It was felt that once pupils are secondary school age they are harder to reach out to.

DS explained that they had delivered the pilot scheme in a few schools already and it has been well received and they were keen to deliver it to other schools, but they needed to be invited into schools in the first place. DS said that the purpose of speaking to the meeting today was to make LGF members aware of their work and hopefully they would spread the word to their individual schools, and this would result in invitations to deliver the scheme to more schools.

DA highlighted that the pilot helped empower year 5/6 pupils who would soon be potentially travelling outside the comfort of their primary school to a secondary school that may have a very different diversity than they were used to. She pointed out that the class teachers are present when the workshop is delivered, and they find this useful as they learn more about what their pupils are going

through both in school and outside of school. This helps teachers to better understand their pupils.

NC said that it was useful that she and DS were able to use examples of their first hand experiences to help pupils understand the impact of using derogatory language etc. and how they can challenge hate incidents when they witness them.

CB asked how DS/NC ascertained if the child understood the language they were using and that it was offensive. NC replied that they asked the child, and it was obvious if the word was being used out of context then they most probably did not understand the word. NC shared her concern that it was more dangerous when a child understood the word and was using it in context, and this was why it was so important that these children were educated on this issue.

DS explained the difference between a hate crime and a hate incident. A hate incident is when a person feels they have been targeted because of their particular characteristics e.g. being overlooked in a queue and the person behind being served but nothing is said. A hate crime, for example, is when the instigator assaults a person and then uses a derogatory word. The use of derogatory words is a hate crime. Both hate incidents and hate crimes are recorded by the police. There are approx. 5000 hate crimes/incidents recorded in Liverpool per year. It was noted that the victim's perception of a hate crime/incident is what is important not the intention of the instigator.

MM asked if incidents recorded in schools are automatically shared with the police. DS replied that only incidents reported directly to the police are recorded by them.

It was noted that the criminal age currently stands at 10 which is another reason to educate year 5/6 children to prevent them being criminalised through ignorance.

DA said that she found that often victims normalise abusive name calling and do not report incidents to the police. She said it was important that such incidents are challenged, reported and recorded as this has a direct impact on the amount of funding dedicated to this area of policing.

DS said that as part of the workshop pupils are given the opportunity to share how they feel when they are called names. She highlighted that this was good for the teachers to witness as sometimes the incidents are played down and an opportunity to challenge the behaviour is missed.

MM expressed a concern that teachers may not have received any/appropriate training to deal with hate incidents which can result in mistakes being repeated.

DC offered to meet with DA, DS and NC to talk about organising training for staff. It was noted that often the ethos of a school affects the way this issue is dealt with at school level and it is the duty of governors to challenge discriminatory behaviour if they are aware of it. DA said that it was important that governors monitor the school's recorded incidents and challenge any increase in figures.

It was acknowledged that often there is confusion regarding the appropriate terminology to use but the core value must be inclusivity.

Governors were asked to contact DS or NC on the email address below if they wished to invite them to deliver a workshop at their school.

community.engagement@merseyside.police.uk

MM thanked DS and NC for their most informative presentation.